

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1 1. A method for transparently accessing Web Services by a network
2 terminal via a network access point, the method comprising:
3 receiving a Web Service request from the network terminal by the network
4 access point;
5 optionally translating the Web Service request into a first format;
6 receiving a Web Service response in the first format; and
7 optionally translating the Web Service response into a second format,
8 wherein the second format is indicative of processing capabilities of the network terminal.

1 2. The method according to Claim 1, wherein translation of the Web
2 Service request is performed in response to receiving a translation indication from the
3 network terminal.

1 3. The method according to Claim 2, wherein the translation indication
2 is received with the Web Service request.

1 4. The method according to Claim 2, wherein the translation indication
2 is received through a capabilities information exchange with the network terminal.

1 5. The method according to Claim 1, wherein translation of the Web
2 Service response is performed in response to receiving the translation indication from the
3 network terminal.

1 6. A Web Service consumption system, comprising:
2 a network terminal adapted to request a Web Service in a translated format
3 and adapted to receive a response to the request in the translated format;
4 a network access point coupled to receive the request and adapted to convert
5 the request into a conventional format; and
6 a service provider coupled to receive the request from the network access
7 point and adapted to provide the response to the request in the conventional format,
8 wherein the network access point is further adapted to convert the response into the
9 translated format prior to forwarding the response to the network terminal.

1 7. The Web Service consumption system according to Claim 6,
2 wherein the network terminal is further adapted to command the network access point to
3 convert the request into the conventional format.

1 8. The Web Service consumption system according to Claim 7,
2 wherein the network terminal is further adapted to command the network access point to
3 convert the response into the translated format.

1 9. The Web Service consumption system according to Claim 6,
2 wherein the translated format comprises a wireless messaging format.

1 10. The Web Service consumption system according to Claim 9,
2 wherein the wireless messaging format comprises Multimedia Messaging System (MMS)
3 format.

1 11. The Web Service consumption system according to Claim 6,
2 wherein the conventional format comprises Simple Object Access Protocol (SOAP).

1 12. The Web Service consumption system according to Claim 11,
2 wherein the conventional format further comprises eXtensible Markup Language (XML).

1 13. A mobile terminal wirelessly coupled to a network which includes a
2 network access point capable of translating Web Service exchanges between the mobile
3 terminal and a service provider, the mobile terminal comprising:

4 a memory capable of storing a messaging module;
5 a processor coupled to the memory and configured by the messaging
6 module to enable a message exchange with the network access point, wherein the
7 messaging module is adapted to instruct the network access point to convert the messages
8 received from the mobile terminal to a format compatible with the service provider.

1 14. The mobile terminal according to Claim 13, wherein the messaging
2 module provides the conversion instruction to the network access point within a service
3 request.

1 15. The mobile terminal according to Claim 13, wherein the messaging
2 module provides the conversion instruction to the network access point during a
3 capabilities exchange with the network access point.

1 16. A computer-readable medium having instructions stored thereon
2 which are executable by a network terminal for consuming Web Services by performing
3 steps comprising:
4 transmitting a Web Service request in a first format to a network access
5 point;
6 signalling the network access point to convert the Web Service request from
7 the first format to a second format; and
8 receiving a response to the Web Service request from the network access
9 point, wherein the response received is also in the first format.

1 17. A network access point within a network used to facilitate a Web
2 Service exchange between a service requestor and a service provider, comprising:
3 means for receiving a service request in a first format from the service
4 requestor;
5 means for translating the service request from the first format into a second
6 format in response to signalling received from the service requestor;
7 means for receiving a service response in the second format from the
8 service provider; and
9 means for translating the service response from the second format to the
10 first format in response to signalling received from the service requestor.

1 18. A computer-readable medium having instructions stored thereon
2 which are executable by a network access point for facilitating Web Service consumption
3 by performing steps comprising:
4 receiving a service request in a first format from the service requestor;
5 translating the service request from the first format into a second format in
6 response to signalling received from the service requestor;
7 receiving a service response in the second format from the service provider;
8 and
9 translating the service response from the second format to the first format in
10 response to signalling received from the service requestor.